UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

For: State and County Offices

Cropland Comparison Override

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

[signature]

1 Overview

A
Background

Section 1107(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides that the Secretary shall require producers on a farm to submit annual acreage reports with respect to all cropland on the farm.

In order to ensure that all cropland on the farm has been reported, the acreage reporting software compares reported acres to cropland on the farm.
If the reported acreage:

- is equal to or greater than the cropland on the farm, the cropland comparison flag in the acreage reporting software will be set to "Y"

- is less than the cropland on the farm, the cropland comparison flag will be set to "N".

   Note: DCP, loan, and LDP payment software will only allow payments to be issued to a farm when the cropland comparison flag is set to "Y".

There are situations that may warrant override of the cropland comparison flag. A cropland comparison override software modification was provided in County Release No. 495.

B
Purpose

This notice provides instructions to the County Offices for overriding the cropland comparison flag in the acreage reporting software.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2003	State Offices, State Offices shall immediately notify and send County Offices the content of this notice

2 Instructions for Cropland Comparison Override

A
Override Policy

County Offices may override the cropland comparison flag in the following situations:

- the difference between reported acreage and cropland is minimal and the County Office has determined that the minimal difference is reasonable given the specific farm circumstances

- the farm has DCP cropland but no cropland

- NAP crops on non-cropland acres are being reported for NAP benefits, but all cropland on the farm has not been certified.

B
Purpose of Software

The cropland comparison override software modification allows County Offices to manually change the cropland comparison flag when the County Office determines that both of the following conditions apply:

- producer made every effort to report all cropland on the farm

- difference between the reported acreage and cropland is reasonable given the specific farm circumstances.

  Note: County Offices must document on the acreage report the reason for the discrepancy.

C
Overriding Cropland Certification Flag

After the County Office has determined that the conditions in subparagraph B have been met, the County Office shall take the steps below to override the cropland certification flag in the acreage reporting software.

Step	Action
1	On Application Selection Menu FAX07001, ENTER "11", "PFC/DCP/Compliance".
2	On PFC/Compliance Menu M00000, ENTER "3", "Acreage and Compliance Determinations".

2   Instructions for Cropland Comparison Override (Continued)

**C
Overriding
Cropland
Certification
Flag (Continued)**

Step	Action
3	On Acreage and Compliance Determinations Year Menu MEA000, select the applicable crop year (2002 or subsequent year).
4	On Acreage and Compliance Determinations Menu MEAL00, ENTER "6", "Load Acreage Data".
5	On Acreage Report Option Selection Screen MEAO0101, ENTER "5", "Cropland Comparison Override".
6	On Acreage Report Farm Selection Screen MEAF0201, enter the applicable FSN.
7	On Acreage Report Cropland Comparison Screen MEAL5001, the following question will be displayed, "Has cropland been fully reported?" Override the flag by changing the "N" to "Y" or the "Y" to "N", as applicable.